

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 18-20 are amended. Claims 21-33 are withdrawn. Claims 1-34 are pending.
2. Claim 18 is amended to overcome the objection.
3. Claims 18-20 and 34 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Guild et al. (US 4380945, hereinafter "Guild"). Guild does not disclose or suggest that the rotor and housing rotate at the same speed as the shaft, that rotation of the blade is independent from rotation of the housing and that the blade is attached to a hub, which is mounted by means of the bearing arrangement rotatably on the spindle and the hub completely encloses the bearing arrangement and one end of the spindle, such that discharge of lubricant provided for bearing is prevented as recited in Applicant's claim 18.

Guild discloses that each of the slitters 11 comprises a lower blade 18 carried rotatably by a lower blade head 19 and an upper blade carried rotatably by an upper blade head 21. Each of the blade heads 19, 21 is constructed and arranged to be mounted on its associated supporting beam 14, 13 respectively, for ready selective adjustment along the length of the beam (Col. 3, L. 19-25). In Guild, freely idling rotary mounting of the lower slitter blade 18 of each of the slitters 11 is effected by means of a respective shaft which is rotatably supported by the head 19 and carries a backing disk 52 to which the blade 18 is secured (Col. 4, L. 40-44). Bearings 68a located adjacent to respectively opposite ends of a central bearing bore 69 in the hub 65 mount the hub to which the blade ring 20 is attached (Col. 5, L. 51 – Col. 6, L. 26).

There is no disclosure whatsoever in Guild that the rotor and the housing rotate at the same speed as the shaft, where the rotation of the blade is independent from the rotation of the housing and the blade is attached to a hub, which is mounted by means of the bearing arrangement rotatably on the spindle where the hub completely encloses the bearing arrangement and one end of the spindle, such that discharge of lubricant

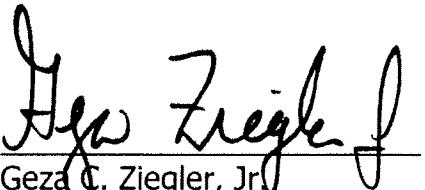
provided for bearing is prevented as recited in Applicant's claim 18. Guild merely discloses a blade ring mounted on a threaded hub 65 where the blade is secured to a lateral flange 68 on the inner end of the hub by a lock nut 67 (Col. 5, L. 58-66) and that the hub 65 is mounted on a spindle 51 that is supported by bearings 68a and nothing more. Thus, claim 18 is patentable over Guild. Claims 19, 20 and 34 are patentable at least by reason of their respective dependencies.

It is noted that claim 18 is patentable over Wolff et al. (US 5241887, hereinafter "Wolff") because Wolff does not disclose or suggest any details as to how the blade is borne in the rotor. In particular, in addition to the features of Applicant's claims described above Wolff does not disclose or suggest a non-rotating spindle and a hub that is borne on the non-rotating spindle, where the hub completely encloses a bearing arrangement and the end of the spindle. Claim 18 is patentable over Gollnick et al. (US 1807840) for reasons similar to those described above.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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